

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **2019 Crushing Season Update #2**

After six weeks of crushing, both Lautoka and Labasa mills have continued to show consistency in their crushing levels and milling extraction.

CEO Graham Clark says “such consistency provides confidence to growers and lorry operators. As of yesterday, the two mills had collectively crushed over 235,000 tonnes of cane”.



**Above:** a harvesting gang of cutters loading cane at the hilltop after harvesting this farm in the interior of Drasa, Lautoka.

In the last 24 hours, Lautoka Mill crushed over 4,900 tonnes of cane and Labasa over 5,700 tonnes of cane. Rarawai Mill at their second week of crushing, crushed over 4,300 tonnes of cane in the last 24 hours.

TCTS (tonnes cane to tonnes sugar) for both the Viti Levu mills have tracked below 10 for the last 24 hours.

Milling extraction for Lautoka Mill is over 97% which is above its target, whilst the Labasa Mill is approaching its milling extraction target of 96%. Efforts continue to boost extraction levels.

Cane supply has remained consistent and cane maturity is showing improving signs. In terms of Memorandum of Gangs Agreement (MOGA) received for all three mills, Lautoka is at 87%, Labasa at 95% and Rarawai at 91%.

Inside stoppages for both Lautoka and Labasa Mills are tracking lower than last year, however the cane lorry weight restrictions at the start of the season has impacted negatively on the Outside stoppages to date.

FSC has distributed the first eleven of its new 6-wheeler trucks to Labasa and they are operating well. Five more have been distributed this week, two to Lomawai sector, two to Yaladro sector and one to Drasa. Another thirty-eight lorries are expected to be delivered by month end.

Clark ends by saying, "its early days yet, we are six weeks into the crushing season and we would like to see further consolidation of operations for a good crushing season. So far so good!"

**ENDS**

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